

## Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2013 Available

Visit [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov)

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# UTILITY RATE INCREASES PROPOSED

Water, wastewater, trash, and recycling rates for City customers are proposed to increase, effective on utility bills dated July 1, 2012 or later. The increases are needed to offset the increasing costs of maintaining, operating, and rehabilitating the water and wastewater systems and to meet contractual obligations to compensate trash haulers for the cost of doing business. Water rates are proposed to increase by 3.5%, sewer rates by 10%, and trash/recycling rates by 2.69%. A public hearing on the rate increases is scheduled for June 12, 2012 at 2 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall, 735 Anacapa St. For more information, visit [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov).

## Why Is a 10% Sewer Rate Increase Proposed?

The City of Santa Barbara operates the El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant and the system of pipes and pump stations that transport wastewater from homes and businesses to the Treatment Plant. In 2008 and 2009, the City experienced an increase in the number of spills from the sewer system. While the spills were generally small in volume and often completely cleaned up, the City undertook several initiatives to reduce the number of overflows. In 2010 and 2011, the number of spills was decreased by 70% (from 42 to 12). In 2011, no spills reached the creeks or beaches.

In February 2011, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper, a local environmental organization, notified the City that it intended to file a lawsuit over the sewer spills. As a result of litigation, the agreement reached with Channelkeeper requires the City to repair or replace an additional two miles of pipe per year for up to five years, in addition to the 2.6 miles the City already replaces or repairs. The agreement also requires the City to pay all costs associated with the litigation. To pay for an accelerated schedule of sewer line replacements (the extra 2 miles per year), the Channelkeeper settlement requires a sewer rate increase of 6% above the originally projected 4% increase, resulting in the 10% rate increase currently proposed.



## CASH FOR MAKING YOUR GARDEN MORE WATER WISE!

**Rebates available on 50% of the cost** of pre-approved water wise plants, irrigation equipment, smart irrigation controllers, laundry to landscape graywater systems, and mulch.

Up to \$1,000 for single family homes  
and up to \$4,000 for businesses and HOAs!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
visit [www.SaveWaterSB.org](http://www.SaveWaterSB.org)  
or call 564-5460

## Looking Good Santa Barbara Community Clean Up

The City of Santa Barbara is hosting a  
**Community Clean Up event on  
Saturday, June 2 from 9 a.m. – noon  
at Ortega Park**  
(600 Block of Salsipuedes St.)  
**and Boys & Girls Club**  
(602 W. Anapamu St.)

Make this the year that you and your  
family get involved!

looking good



**For more information,  
call Looking Good  
Santa Barbara at  
897-2526.**



City of Santa Barbara  
P.O. Box 1990  
Santa Barbara, CA  
93102-1990

[www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov)

May 2012



## Summer with the City!

Parks & Recreation Summer Camps and Sports Clinics

June 11 – August 24

33 camps & sports clinics

\* Full & half day options \* 1 & 2 week programs

From beach volleyball to stand up paddling, nature camp to skateboarding, the City has the largest selection of fun in town!

Register online at

[www.SBParksandRecreation.com/SummerFun](http://www.SBParksandRecreation.com/SummerFun)

or register in-person at:

Cabrillo Bathhouse, 1118 E. Cabrillo Blvd.

Carrillo Recreation Center, 100 E. Carrillo St.

Find all spring and summer program information in the new **Spring & Summer Activity Guide**, available online only!

For complete summer camp information, visit [www.SBParksandRecreation.com/SummerFun](http://www.SBParksandRecreation.com/SummerFun) or call 564-5418.



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## Double-Check Before You Cut Trees & Vegetation

The City of Santa Barbara has adopted tree preservation and landscape maintenance ordinance provisions which contain requirements to protect trees and landscaping from removal and to control excessive pruning. In 2009, the City Council enacted new fines for illegal tree or vegetation removal which can range up to \$5,000 based on type of violation(s).

**Landscape contractors, gardeners, and property owners are encouraged to attend an information meeting.**

### Information Meetings

Wednesday, May 30 at noon or 5:30 p.m.

David Gebhard Public Meeting Room,  
630 Garden Street



Be informed, come to one of the information meetings and learn:

- ✓ When it is most important to double-check before you cut, prune, or remove vegetation or trees
- ✓ What constitutes "excessive pruning" subject to fines
- ✓ How to get fast answers regarding your property's pruning, alteration, and removal regulations
- ✓ How to apply for a tree or vegetation removal permit

**Double-Check Before You Cut.** To avoid fines, property owners are encouraged to check with City staff prior to removing or pruning any of the following types of vegetation:

- ✓ Trees in the right of way, including parkways
- ✓ Trees in yards fronting a public or private street (front setback)
- ✓ Vegetation in the El Pueblo Viejo Landmark District or other historic district or on a historic property
- ✓ Vegetation on steep slopes, within 50 feet of creeks, or anywhere that involves native biological habitat
- ✓ Historic or specimen trees
- ✓ Vegetation on or near coastal bluffs
- ✓ Landscaping for multi-family or commercial development in city planning files
- ✓ Landscaping in parking lots
- ✓ A specific tree or specific landscape feature of a single-family development which was specifically conditioned to remain as part of an approval

In some cases, if a landscape alteration is determined to be a "substantially similar replacement," as defined in the City's guidelines, no review or permit is necessary. However, property owners are encouraged to contact Planning Staff at 630 Garden Street to ensure their project qualifies for exemption.

For more information, go to: [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Landscaping](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Landscaping) or call Heather Baker, AICP Project Planner at 564-5470.

## GET \$1,000 FOR WATER WISE LANDSCAPING AND LOWER YOUR SUMMER WATER BILL!

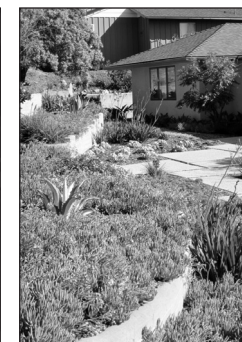
Do you want to save money on your water bill and have a beautiful, lush garden? Take advantage of the City's hugely popular Smart Landscape Rebate. This rebate provides homeowners with an opportunity to replace water thirsty plants, like lawn, with water wise plants and low water-using lawn alternatives.

To help make your garden more water wise, the Smart Landscape Rebate covers half the cost of materials; single-family homes can receive up to \$1,000 and multi-family, businesses, and HOAs, up to \$4,000. The rebate can be applied to any combination of water wise plants, mulch, efficient irrigation equipment, laundry-to-landscape graywater systems, smart irrigation controllers, and more.

But before you pick up that shovel or head out to the nursery, give us a call first. All projects must be pre-approved before work is started, and rebates are not retroactive. To get started on your water wise (and wallet friendly) landscape, call 564-5460 or visit [SaveWaterSB.org](http://SaveWaterSB.org).



BEFORE



AFTER

A participating landscape in the rebate program: before and 6 months after installation.